

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the most recent Non-Final Office Action dated July 8, 2010. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 11 and 17-21 are allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 13-16 were rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 3-6 of U.S. Patent 7,403,226. Claims 12, 13, and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kijima et al. (U.S. Patent 6,661,451, "Kijima") in view of Tani (U.S. Patent 5,187,569). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kijima in view of Tani and further in view of Udagawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,195,125, "Udagawa").

By the present amendment, rejected claims 12-16 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and without prejudice or disclaimer to file a continuing application directed to the subject matter thereof. Claims 1-10 were previously cancelled, also without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and without prejudice or disclaimer to file a continuing application directed to the subject matter thereof.

No new claims have been added, and no claims have been otherwise amended. All of the currently pending claims 11 and 17-21 were allowed in the most recent Office Action dated July 8, 2010.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all claims remaining in this application should now be in condition for allowance, and therefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the

Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 500.38315VX2), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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